

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 515

By Ketron

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Jim and Doris Demos for their meritorious service to the citizens of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly salute those citizens who, through their remarkable efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, two such estimable individuals are Jim Demos and the late Doris Demos, owners of Demos' restaurants, who have been named as the 2011 Business Legends of the Year by the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Demos and the memory of Mrs. Demos will be honored at the Chamber's annual "Business at its Best" event on February 3, 2012, which will be held at the Embassy Suites Murfreesboro Hotel and Conference Center; and

WHEREAS, originally from Alabama, both Jim and Doris came from humble beginnings; and

WHEREAS, at the age of nine, Jim began working with his father, Pete Demos, a Greek immigrant who owned a small restaurant in Birmingham, Alabama; and

WHEREAS, Doris grew up as a sharecropper's daughter in Alabama and Georgia, and she met Jim when he was working in the movie theater business; and

WHEREAS, a few years into their marriage, Jim began his restaurant business, gradually building and operating eight Western Sizzlin' restaurants and a commissary in the Nashville area; and

WHEREAS, after an extended business career that took Mr. Demos to cities throughout the South, he and Mrs. Demos sold the Western Sizzlin' operations in 1989 and settled in Murfreesboro, opening their first Demos' restaurant that year; and

WHEREAS, the restaurant has garnered exceptional reviews since its opening and has been the recipient of countless awards for restaurant food and service excellence, including the 2009 Legends Award from the *Daily News Journal* and the 2010 Talk of the Town Award for outstanding customer service; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Mr. and Mrs. Demos were also honored as the Chamber's Business People of the Year in 2009; and

WHEREAS, since its founding, Demos' has grown to five locations in Tennessee and Alabama, all delivering authentic family recipes at a great value; and

WHEREAS, Jim and Doris Demos opened the Nashville restaurant in 1992, the Lebanon restaurant in 2001, one in Hendersonville in 2005, and a location in Florence, Alabama, in 2009; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Demos has managed the operations side of the restaurants, and Mrs. Demos handled the customer service, implementing innovative techniques; and

WHEREAS, public-spirited citizens of the highest order, Mr. and Mrs. Demos have been actively involved in community programs, as longtime supporters of the Child Advocacy Center, Habitat for Humanity, through both its Whittlemania and Doris Dollars programs, and numerous other organizations focuses on families and youth; and

WHEREAS, Doris Demos was also honored with a Center of Influence Award from the Tennessee National Guard's 269th Military Police unit based in Murfreesboro for her support of soldiers and their families; and

WHEREAS, Jim and Doris enjoyed many years of wedded bliss until her passing in December 2010; and

WHEREAS, the couple's blessed union produced two children who are both involved in the restaurant: Peter, who serves as President, and Felicia, who manages the business's finances; and

WHEREAS, the greater Murfreesboro community and the State of Tennessee are undoubtedly better places to live because of the lives and service of Jim and Doris Demos; and

WHEREAS, the success of the State of Tennessee, the strength of our communities, and the overall vitality of our society depend, in great measure, on the dedication of people like Mr. and Mrs. Demos who use their considerable talents and resources to serve others; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Jim and Doris Demos for their many contributions to the good people of Tennessee, their unwavering commitment to others, and their astute leadership in Murfreesboro; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor Jim Demos and the late Doris Demos upon being named as the 2011 Business Legends of the Year, commend their outstanding record of volunteerism, leadership, and community spirit, and extend to Mr. Demos our best wishes for every continued success in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.